HiddenWires

@ CEDIA UK Expo 2006

the home automation & entertainment resource

This special edition HiddenWires newsletter takes a look at some of the new products and developments on show at the CEDIA UK Expo 2006, and marks HiddenWires' third birthday.

This year sees new multiroom systems, projectors, screens, audio components, and custom install loudspeakers, as well as greater activity in the lighting, window treatment and remote controller markets. Door entry and security systems are also receiving greater attention, as are design tools, and solutions for the system integrator. For more CEDIA UK Expo 2006 coverage visit www.cediaexpo.hiddenwires.co.uk.

System Integration

The new EIB module for the Freeway AV system controller by DKT (stand G6a) allows the Freeway to control AV systems over the Internet, via RS232, RS422 and RS485 ports, infrared and logic inputs. FreeWay is designed to replace a plethora of interface boxes, and allows the entire spectrum of AV and home automation products to talk to each other.

For multimedia networking, Abitana (stand B16) is showing the Home Network. This allows the connection of TV, hi-fi, phone, fax, PC, printer, video recorder, DVD player, and cameras etc, via the same type of wall outlet. All outlets are interconnected by high-tech cable that is concealed inside the walls, panelling, cable ducts or flooring and routed to a central communications cabinet that distributes TV, phone, PC LAN and Internet.

Editor: Yasmin Hashmi
Publisher: Stella Plumbridge
Email: info@hiddenwires.co.uk
Telephone: +44 (0)20 8761 1042

HiddenWires, published by SYPHA, is the online magazine for custom installed home automation and home entertainment with over 100,000 visitors/month. A subscription form is available at HiddenWires.co.uk.

Copyright SYPHA 2006. All rights reserved. While every reasonable effort has been made to ensure accuracy, SYPHA cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions.

Controllers

The new ProntoPro RU990 colour touchscreen remote from Philips (stand H3) has a memory capacity of 48MB, allows extensive customisation, and controls even more devices than previous Philips Pronto models. It can up/download codes four times faster than its predecessors, can be combined with the LI910 RF extender, and features backward-compatible RF capabilities and IR learning for its extensive database of codes. The Pronto RU960 has a newly-designed touchscreen interface, and includes a charger, docking station and battery. It comes with ProntoEdit PC software for creating personalised backgrounds, buttons, labels and actions.

Linn (stand D4) is announcing KINIK, a new home theatre system control interface that runs on Pocket PCs. It enables wireless control of the Linn KISTO system controller (and soon the Linn KINOS system controller) and any connected source components. KINIK operates on many Pocket PCs running Windows Mobile 2003 SE or Mobile 5, and will control all Linn source components with RS232 compatibility, as well as non-Linn sources including CD and DVD players, and satellite and cable receivers, controlled by KINIK via a Linn DEKODA IR translator.

In addition to showcasing two new handheld remote control units, AMX (stand B11) is demonstrating its smallest Modero touchscreen panel, and new MAX digital content servers, as well as promoting total compliance of its entire product range with EU directives RoHS and WEEE.

New touchpanels are also being unveiled by Crestron (stand B5). The MT-1000 wireless mini-touch panel controls a wide range of AV, lighting, blinds, HVAC, security and other home technology systems. Also on show is a 10" Wi-Fi touchpanel, a 15" standard display, a 17" widescreen display, new-look TPS touchpanels with two-tone exteriors, and 2-Series control systems.

Multiroom

Niles Audio (stand J7) is releasing the IntelliControl ICS whole-house distributed audio system. This accommodates all popular digital sources and delivers detailed information to and from its keypad, touchscreen and handheld remote controllers. At the heart of the system is the GXR2 Modular Multizone Receiver, that uses interchangeable tuner modules for XM and Sirius satellite radio, iPod, AM/FM and other 'legacy' sources such as CD, DVD and satellite TV.

For consumers taking their first step into the world of multiroom audio, Crestron (stand B5) is showing Adagio. This new series of entry-level home entertainment products includes whole-house audio distribution, a home entertainment system, a digital audio server and an audio room expander - each of which can also be integrated with Crestron keypads or LCD panels for expanded control.

Sonos (stand B7) is demonstrating the Sonos Digital Music System that comprises the Sonos ZP80 ZonePlayer and speakers in each room, and a wireless, full-colour hand-held Sonos Controller. By connecting a ZP80 to any amplified audio device via

STAND G6a

Control AV and automation systems using a simple internet browser and/or your IEB network.

NEW EIB PARTNER EIB Tools

FREEWAY
UNIVERSAL ETHERNET AV CONTROLLER

IR Receiver For IR decode and built-in learning functions.

4 x IR Ports Independently addressable plus 1 port configurable as extra IR receiver.

Binary I/O 6 independent inputs, 6 independent outputs, plus 5v DC supply.

Ethernet Port Built-in web server, built-in FreeScript™ complier, Telnet and UDP functions for expandability.

6 x RS232 Ports Rx, Tx CTS, RTS & Ground, 8 bit, 7 bit, all stop bits, parity and 1200-115K baud.

3 x RS485 Ports 3 independent duplex RS485 ports, one with 12v power.

EIB Input Direct connection to EIB (European Installation Bus).

MASSIVE FLEXIBILITY / MINIMUM LEARNING / MAXIMUM CONTROL www.dktgroup.com/freeway 0870 201 1512

DKT Group

the analogue or digital outputs, that device instantly and seamlessly becomes part of a wireless, multiroom digital music system. The ZP80 can also be used to retrofit a conventional multiroom audio system with home-run speakers, or can be used as a wireless extender to increase the wireless range of Sonosnet, the peer-to-peer wireless mesh network created by Sonos.

Digital Future Solutions (stand G5) is showcasing its HD-enabled iDyl multiroom media server, that can output up to 17 independent audio zones, and is also an upscaling DVD server, offering up to 1080p with 3:2 pull-down de-interlacing.

Home Cinema

Thanks to its tie-up with Faroudja, Meridian (stand E7) is shipping two brand-new high-end digital video projector/processor combinations. Both the flagship D-ILA1080MF1 (MF1) projector and its more affordable stablemate, the D-ILA1080MF2 (MF2), are native 1080p D-ILA projectors employing three 1920x1080 chips for smooth, flicker-free, high-resolution images with no visible grid. The partnering video processor is Meridian's Faroudja DVP1080MF that contains the entire suite of Faroudja-patented technologies. Meridian boasts 'cinema-quality pictures with film-like authenticity' from these projector/processor combinations, with professional-standard greyscale reproduction, superior colour performance with true D65 colour temperature, and near-perfect white field uniformity.

The latest home cinema projectors from projectiondesign are being demonstrated by RGB Smarthome (stand B11) in the RGB home cinema room. The presentations introduce the new Action! Model two and Action! Model three 1080 (true HDTV). Taking centre stage at AWE (stand D7 and D8), is the Cineversum CV70 Ultra DLP projector, featuring the latest DC3 darkchip technology along with other key Cineversum products, including high-end three-chip models.

In addition to home cinema products from Vidikron and Furman, A+K (stand B3) is showing the Stewart Filmscreen CineCurve, a 2.35:1 aspect ratio screen with a curved shape that enhances the super-wide image and creates an increased sense of immersion.

HDTV

The Unicam Group (stand G17a), European distributor for Audio Authority, is showcasing the 1166 high-definition component-sized, 6x1 signal switcher for multi-source HDTV systems. The 1166 has input and output connections for DVI with HDCP, component video, and digital audio (coaxial and optical), and is enabled for stereo audio. When any new source is turned on, the 1166 senses the new audio or video signal and switches its output to the desired source - no further user involvement is needed. For more complex applications, the system can be operated from a third-party control system.

At AWE (stand D7 and D8) the new Philips 32" and 42" HD Ready Mirror TVs, that are specially designed for recessed mounting, are available to view for the first time in the UK. Other HD Ready and true HD plasmas and LCD TVs from leading brands are also on display.

Audio

For high-impact stereo or surround listening in limited spaces, Genelec (stand D11) is introducing a combination of the ultra-compact 6020A two-way active speaker system and the 5050A active subwoofer. The 6020A has a 4" bass driver and a 3/4" tweeter, each powered by 20W amplifiers. It employs proprietary technology to ensure optimal imaging accuracy and low-frequency extension, with minimal distortion. The 5050A subwoofer has one active magnetically-shielded 8" driver, and two 8" passive radiators, with an integrated 70W amplifier unit.

Genelec also has five new three-way active speakers for the larger home theatre, multimedia room, or any surround sound environment measuring up to 13,000 cubic feet. These employ proprietary technology for high-quality stereo imaging and frequency balance, even in difficult acoustic environments, and are magnetically-shielded. They also feature lower noise electronics, a signal-sensing auto-on/off circuit, new crossover electronics, and a 12V/contact closure strip for interfacing with AMX, Crestron or other home automation systems.

The new Meridian (stand E7) 300 Series of in-wall and on-wall high-end installation loudspeakers is available with or without crossovers. The active models are driven by the G41 active crossover unit - an eight-channel power amplifier (8 x 100W into 8 Ohms) with modular active crossovers, and a negative output impedance for its amplifiers to help minimise the effect of long speaker cable runs. The in-wall models are available with white cloth grilles and surface grilles for painting, or in flush-mount versions without grilles to facilitate custom wall surface treatments.

Blurring the distinction between loudspeaker and furnishing, Artcoustic (stand H10) is showcasing the brand new X2 range of products, including the new DF MultiX2 LCR speaker. The X2 range is a true hybrid between hi-fi and PA. It has larger bass cones and a dual-driver tweeter system for an extended frequency range from 1500Hz up to 40kHz, while still maintaining a 97-98dB sound pressure level, and a physical size of only a third of what it should be in order to get the same dynamic performance.

For those who like their speakers round, Anthony Gallo (stand E4) is showing a choice of spherical loudspeakers, from the 4" Micro and 5" A'Diva satellite speakers available in nine colours and finishes, to the Reference 3 floor-standers. The company's new Reference AV range of high-end wall-mountable loudspeakers is also on show.

A completely new line of audio components from NAD is on show at Lenbrook (stand C6). The first products available in The Masters Series are the M15 surround processor, M25 seven-channel amplifier, M55 universal disc player, M5 CD/SACD player and the M3 dual mono integrated amplifier. USD (stand B10) is showing the new Artsound SV6 six-channel volume control, and the Artsound AMP1250 power amplifier, while beyerdynamic (stand F4) is showing new models from its Premium range of headphones, DT990, DT880 and DT770 as well as its futuristic RSX 660 wireless headphone system.

For those requiring sound insulation, Acoustiblok UK (stand G11) is showing the Acoustiblok noise reduction material. The product is available in a 3mm thickness for 26dB of sound reduction (6dB better than sheet lead), and 6mm for 32dB reduction.

Furniture & Mounting

New custom theatre seating, in the form of the Vedette, is available from Cineak (stand G3a). Designed as a more affordable

HIGH DEFINITION SIGNAL CONTROL

- Six inputs, one output, HDCP compliant
- DVI, component video (up to 1080p), digital & analogue audio
- Options include HDTV signal distribution and matrix router
- Outputs can be expanded up to 72 remote Cat 5 destinations
- IR remote control included, learns IR and is RS-232 capable
- Wallplates provide YPbPr, digital & analogue audio plus IR

Audio Authority

Call us on : 0871 226 2886

Visit www.unicamgroup.com for our full range of products and services.

UNI·CAM INTERACTIVE SOLUTIONS GROUP

all-around seating solution, the Vedette can be used as a stand-alone piece or ganged in rows. It has a fully-articulating headrest, stainless-steel frame, expansive leather/fabric collection, and choice of reclining mechanism.

Among the many mounting and bracketry systems on show are three new ceiling-mount systems for multimedia projectors by TCi (stand J2). These further extend the company's range of mounting systems that also includes the Projector Reflector, which completely conceals the projector above the ceiling.

Lighting & Window Treatments

USD (stand B10) is previewing some of the new surrounds and finishes for the Niko range of light switches. Niko switches are available in flush- and surface-mounting versions, and are designed to allow flexibility in terms of mechanism, surround and cover plate. A wide range of finishes is already available, with new stylish additions soon to be launched. USD is also showing the Niko 8-fold bus push-button cover plate with Braille that will work with the third-generation of Nikobus home automation.

Helvar (stand C8) is showing its LCD TouchPanel which can now fully integrate with a home AV system to provide 'touch of a button' control of a home cinema system, for example. The new Helvar IMAGINE lighting router also on display, is designed to offer a wealth of control potential for the custom installer.

The latest C-Bus lighting controls from Clipsal (stand H2b), a brand of Schneider Electric, boast elegant styling, intelligent touchscreens, programmable switches and now programmable wireless systems that are fitted just like ordinary light switches. They require only 230V live and switched live connections - not even a neutral is needed. The modules can be programmed simply and quickly to provide a full range of functions. Dimming units provide timer functions, and all operations can be operated from a compact hand-held remote. Plug adaptors for existing power sockets are also available so that table lamps, spa baths, pool pumps etc, can be added to the control system.

Vantage (stand G13) is releasing the InFusion family for simplifying the entire lighting and automation experience. The family features a new controller, stylish touchscreens, and programming software. The InFusion Controller has a dramatically faster processor, five RS232 ports, a built-in Ethernet jack and a USB port, and allows for 120 wired stations including window treatments, distributed audio and video, security, heating and air conditioning and lighting. The InFusion Design Center software simplifies complex automation scenarios through third-party device libraries, with easy drag-and-drop menus, and saveable and reusable customised programming.

Low-voltage (24V) electrically-operated curtain tracks are available from Goelst UK (stand H8) in the form of the second-generation G-Rail 6000 series. System 6300 is suitable for curtain weights up to 20kg, system 6302 up to 40kg, and system 6200 up to 60kg. All systems are supplied with infrared remote control and offer solutions from lightweight domestic curtains up to heavyweight contract use. Available in white, natural metallic and special colours on request, the G-Rail 6000 series is supplied complete and ready-assembled to customers' specific requirements, and is compatible with most BUS systems including CAN-BUS.

For motorised roller blinds, Lutron Electronics (stand D6) is showing the Sivoia QED that features a near-silent electronic drive, minimal light gaps around the roller blind and simple installation. Lutron is also showcasing its HomeWorks, GRAFIK 3000 series, the LCP 128 self-contained lighting control system, and consumer dimming ranges. The HomeWorks lighting control system provides convenient, reliable operation of lighting and other home electronics from keypads throughout the home. The GRAFIK Eye and GRAFIK Integrale lighting control systems offer easy integration to touchscreens and other AV equipment and accessories, while the consumer dimming range includes a basic slide dimmer and a discrete floor- and table-lamp dimmer.

Other lighting systems on show include the Crestron (stand B5) iLux CLS-C6 integrated zoned lighting system that can control six lighting zones and six groups of blinds or curtains, and the Mode Lighting (stand K4) SceneStyle4 self-contained scene setting control solution, that is targeted towards the refurbishment and small projects market.

Security

SISD (stand K1) is showing Siedle video and audio entry systems. The door panels have the ability to link directly to Siedle handset/monitor combinations, or Crestron-style systems internally, with the added bonus of interfacing with the household telephone system. The new Comfort II smart home system, that integrates intruder alarm, home automation, intercom and voicemail, is being displayed by Cytech Technology (stand F1).

Tools & Training

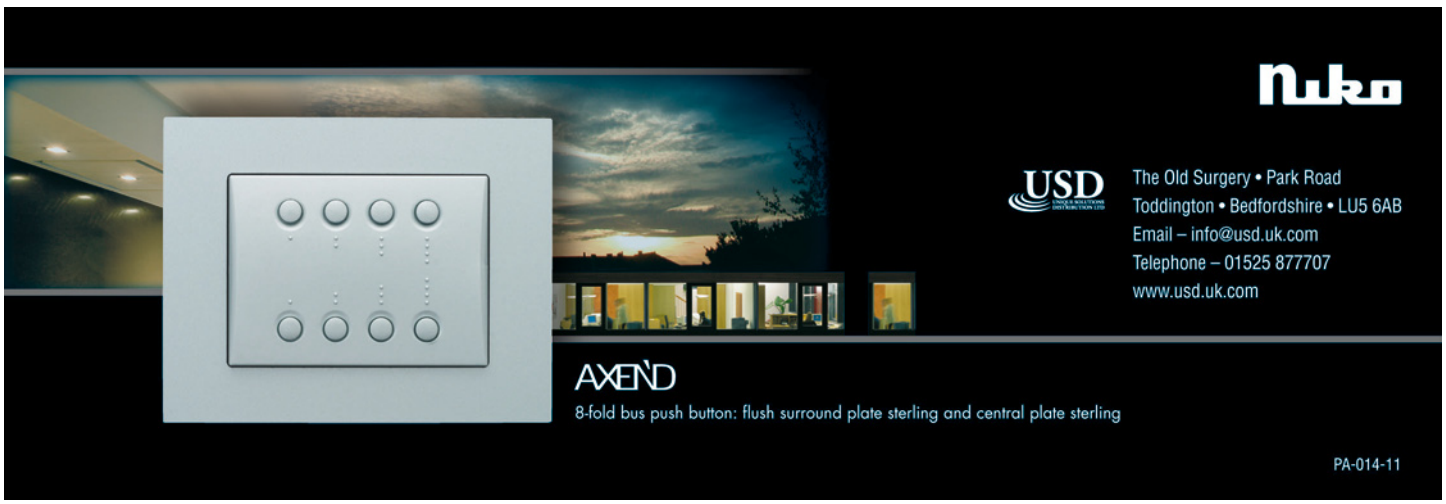
Smart-e (stand H9) is launching a suite of three accredited training programmes aimed at improving professionals' ability to design and install multiroom audio visual systems using CAT5 cabling.

Free AV and EIB programming sessions are available throughout the show from DKT (stand G6a). These primarily involve using Freeway Macros to control products over Ethernet, Infrared, RS232 and EIB.

Also free is VisualArchitect software from AMX (stand B11). Available to AMX dealers and installers, it reduces the time required to generate touchpanel designs, program hardware, create system diagrams and produce quotations.

D-Tools (c/o Intuitive IT, stand K2) is announcing enhanced AutoCAD functionality for its System Integrator software. This allows the dynamic linking of equipment lists with a data-driven D-Tools project file to the corresponding drawings native in AutoCAD. Leveraging the new capabilities with AutoCAD 2006, D-Tools users can work directly in AutoCAD to automate the creation of AutoCAD blocks for elevation, plan, functional, and schematic drawings for inclusion in D-Tools System Integrator project files.

For optimising video display systems, LCD, rear projection TVs, front projectors, plasma displays and direct-view televisions, Datacolor (stand D1) is showing the ColorFacts Professional 6.0 colour calibration system. This hardware and software bundle consists of a sensor that measures PAL and NTSC signals and HDTV directly on screen, and forwards the data to the calibration software installed on a computer.



best picture

Experience the MF1 at CEDIA Expo 2006 – Stand E7. And don't miss our impressive new range of in-wall, flush-mount and on-wall Active and Passive installation loudspeakers: Meridian's legendary sound quality with hidden benefits.

(Pictured: 320 on-wall.)

If you're not offering your customers full-spec 1080p HD, they're missing out. When quality matters, and your client simply wants the best, consider the latest, second-generation Faroudja projectors – from Meridian, *the* source for higher definition sound and vision.

The new **D-ILA1080MF1** projector delivers smooth, cinema-quality, flickerless and pixel-grid-free, full-spec 1080p 3-chip High Definition images. Individually calibrated in our UK factory to the ultimate in contrast ratio, shadow definition, colour temperature and overall performance, the **MF1** and its compact companion, the **MF2,** feature images that are second to none.

Make it a double feature with the **DVP1080MF** digital video processor, starring Faroudja's unsurpassed, multi-award-winning image processing technology, and virtually any video source can be High Definition – including your customer's existing DVD library.

Stand E7

Visit Meridian at CEDIA Expo 2006 to experience our latest release for yourself on Stand E7. You'll be sure to award this unique projector/processor combination 'best picture': your clients will, too.

BOOTHROYD STUART
MERIDIAN

Meridian Audio Limited
Latham Road, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE29 6YE, UK
T +44 (0)1480 445678 • **F** +44 (0)1480 445686
info@meridian-audio.com • **www.meridian-audio.com**

'Meridian' is a trademark of Meridian Audio Ltd. 'Faroudja' is a registered trademark of Genesis Microchip Inc., licensed exclusively to Meridian Audio Ltd. Other trademarks and registered trademarks are the property of their respective owners.